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Dear Co-Chair Winfield, Co-Chair Stafstrom, Vice Chair Flexer, Vice Chair Blumenthal, Ranking Member Kissel, Ranking Member Fishbein, and all members of the Judiciary Committee:

Here we go again with the unconstitutional proposed firearm legislation being brought to the table once again and focusing on punishing the law-abiding citizens of this state.

In case some of you haven't noticed, there is a war going on, which can escalate into a very bad situation, even for the United States. We are not dealing with a small enemy, and if there is anything that **President Volodymyr Zelenskyy** has taught the world, one must protect themselves, their family, and their homeland by any means necessary. If you think that this could never happen here to the United States, then I recommend you opening both your eyes and start seeing the bigger picture.

As a constituent, and resident of Connecticut, I strongly oppose the following bills which I personally find offensive and a clear infringement upon our 2nd Amendment Constitutional Rights:

**Governors Bill: 2022 SB 16 - AN ACT ADDRESSING GUN VIOLENCE AND JUVENILE CRIME.**

(Can someone please explain to me what you consider an "assault weapon"? Please stop using a made-up coined media term which means nothing. No one in this state owns a so called "assault weapon". Last I checked, our secured firearms, golf clubs, baseball bats, kitchen knives, and pillows, have not assaulted anyone. If you want to get the clear definition of what an "assault rifle" is, I am sure you can find some clear evidence of what was left in Afghanistan to a terrorist organization.)

**House Bill No. 5397 - AN ACT DECLARING GUN VIOLENCE A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS AND ESTABLISHING THE OFFICE OF GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND ADVISORY COUNCIL ON GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION.**  
**House Bill No. 5416 - AN ACT PROHIBITING THE BULK PURCHASE OF FIREARM.**

Does crime need to be address? Absolutely! However, let's not forget the Police Accountability bill that was signed by the Governor himself, which put law enforcement into jeopardy of doing their jobs effectively, causing an increase in crimes that we have witness a crossed the state.

Regarding Juveniles, let's not forget the epic failures of the Malloy administration (second chance program) to go lenient on Juveniles, where they basically get a slap on the wrist through the court system, and they are back out on the street the next day, committing more crimes. Example: The increase of car jackings, and thefts across the state.

These failed policies that have been signed and have been put into motion is a direct result why the crime rate has increased in this state. Do NOT, intertwine law abiding citizens into this category, since law abiding citizens are NOT the one's committing any crimes.

Bills that I do support:

**Senate Bill No. 388 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEFENSE OF A PERSON OR A PERSON'S DWELLING, PLACE OF WORK OR MOTOR VEHICLE.**

**H.B. No. 5415 – AN ACT CONCERNING THE TRANSFER OF (so called) ASSAULT WEAPONS AND LARGE CAPACITY MAGAZINES.**

**H.B. No. 5412 – AN ACT CONCERNING THE DUTY TO RETREAT IN A RELIGIOUS HOUSE OF WORSHIP.**

I appreciate you taking the time to read my testimony, and hopefully you can understand that the law-abiding citizens of this state are the ones that are following the laws, pay their taxes, and are the ones that vote in elections.

Sincerely,  
Brett Ostapowicz  
Wallingford Groton CT